

**Pamela Bowman  
Massage Therapist**

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9021 Sunridge Circle #818 ~ Ft. Worth, TX 76120

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August 16, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food and Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers La., Rm. 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

**Re: Dockets 98N-1230, 96P-0418, and 97P-0197**

The most effective and direct way to reduce salmonella in eggs would be to eliminate the practice of forced molting.

Every year, when egg production drops, approximately 195 million hens in North America endure a bizarre torment called forced molting. This cruel practice throws the hens' systems into collapse, stressing and shocking their worn-out bodies into laying one more batch of eggs before being sent to slaughter. The frightened birds are deprived of food for up to two weeks, water is restricted for up to eight weeks and they are kept in pitch dark for weeks on end. As a result, hundreds of thousands die while those who survive grow weak, shed all their feathers, and lose up to 35 percent of their body weight. Forced molting also weakens hens' bones, resulting in fragile, broken limbs.

Recent research, including a study conducted by U.S. government scientists, shows that forced molting can be harmful to humans as well. The studies show that forced molting increases the frequency and severity of Salmonella enteritidis among hens. The stressful conditions weaken their immune systems so badly that they become prone to disease and salmonella infections. The result is sick birds and contaminated eggs.

Please help stop this cruel and unhealthy practice call Forced Molting.

Sincerely,



Pamela Bowman

96P-0418

C300



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CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ C 300

See File Number: 97P-0197/ C 301

96P-0418/ C 300